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ANGLO-AMERICAN TALKS: MARCH, 1959

Agreed Minute

The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, accompanied by the Acting Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and advisers, met at Camp David, Maryland, from March 20 to March 22.

In the course of their discussions, they agreed that further studies of certain subjects should be made in accordance with the procedures set out below.

GERMANY

1. Agreement on the Western position to be put forward in the forthcoming negotiations with the Soviet Government will be sought by the procedures set out in Annex 1. Throughout these procedures all practicable steps will be taken to coordinate the views of the United States and United Kingdom Governments.
2. Planning to meet the various contingencies which might arise in the event of a breakdown of the forthcoming negotiations with the Soviet Government or unilateral action by the Soviet Government in Germany will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex 2.
3. The Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom each will study the possibility of establishing a zone, in an agreed area in Europe, in which there would be limitation of forces and weapons subject to an effective system of inspection and the conditions and circumstances in which such a zone might be proposed.
4. Against the possibility that the forthcoming negotiations with the Soviet Government might break down and be followed by unilateral Soviet action in Germany the two Governments will each study what counter action, short of military operations, could effectively be taken in any part of the world to bring pressure to bear on the Soviet Union.

NUCLEAR TESTS

5. United States experts will make available to British scientists their latest

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their latest data and conclusions on the practicability of establishing effective control over nuclear tests underground or in outer space. Thereafter, British scientists will visit Washington as soon as possible to reach an agreed Anglo-American assessment of the scientific position.

6. Discussions will be held as soon as possible through the diplomatic channel to agree on the line to be taken by the two Governments when the Nuclear Tests Conference resumes at Geneva on 13th April.

MIDDLE EAST

7. The two Governments will arrange for joint study by their appropriate agencies of action to meet various contingencies which may arise in Iraq, Kuwait and Iran.

8. A joint meeting will be held later in the year to carry further the joint Anglo-American studies into certain problems connected with Middle East oil initiated at the Bermuda Conference.

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Annex 1

AGREED PROCEDURES FOR ARRIVING AT THE WESTERN POSITION  
TO BE PRESENTED IN THE MAY FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING  
WITH THE SOVIETS

(Document to be communicated to the French and German Governments for their agreement and thereafter, assuming such agreement, to N.A.T.O.)

1. The Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom and the United States will meet in Washington on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 31, to exchange views in preliminary fashion on the status of substantive preparations for the Foreign Ministers meeting with the Soviets in May. The meeting is designed to emphasize that insofar as the West is concerned the responsibility for dealing with the Soviets on questions relating to the whole of Germany and to Berlin rests on these three Governments. The meeting itself should be brief, presumably no more than an hour, in order to avoid duplication of discussion when these three Foreign Ministers are joined by the Foreign Minister of the German Federal Republic.

2. The Foreign Ministers of the German Federal Republic, France, the United Kingdom and the United States will meet in Washington on the afternoon of March 31 immediately following the tripartite meeting referred to in paragraph 1. They will continue this quadripartite meeting on the following day, April 1.

The tasks of the four Foreign Ministers are as follows.

(a) to consider the report of the quadripartite working group which recessed its labours in Paris on March 21, and to approve this report, insofar as agreement is reached;

(b) to provide policy guidance which will enable the working group further to define a common position on substance and presentation when it resumes its work (presumably in Paris) at some early date in April;

(c) to agree on the form of a report as to their preliminary views on the Western position to be presented on April 2 or 3 to the N.A.T.O. Ministerial Council and how it should be presented;

(d) to agree on what might be appropriately told the N.A.T.O. Ministerial Council concerning the stage of contingency planning with

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respect to Berlin and how this might best be done. (The responsibility for deciding the content of this report would rest primarily on the Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom and the United States.)

3. At the N.A.T.O. Ministerial Council meeting of April 2-4, approval in principle should be sought for the general lines as revealed to the Council of the negotiating position being prepared for the May meeting with the Soviets.

4. Assuming that the quadripartite working group reassembles in early April, it should plan its work with a view to completing not later than April 20 an agreed recommendation on the substantive position with which the three Western Foreign Ministers would enter the Foreign Ministers meeting with the Soviets on May 11. This position should be comprehensive and among its elements include proposals with respect to the reunification of Germany, practical measures for European security, a draft peace treaty, and a position with respect to Berlin. The report should also contain recommendations concerning tactics for negotiation. This report when completed should be transmitted to the four Governments for study.

5. On or about April 27, the four Foreign Ministers should come together, at a place to be agreed, to approve the working group report with such amendments as might be worked out. Promptly thereafter the four Foreign Ministers should arrange to communicate the general lines of their agreed proposals to the North Atlantic Council for its consideration and approval in principle. A special meeting of the Permanent Council might be called for this purpose during the latter part of the week of April 27, which would suggest Paris as possibly the most convenient location for the Four Foreign Ministers to meet in the first instance.

6. It may be desirable for the four Foreign Ministers to come together in Geneva a day or two before the opening of the meeting with the Soviets on May 11 for a final rehearsal.

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Annex 2

AGREED UK-US MINUTE ON "CONTINGENCY PLANNING" FOR  
BERLIN

1. The British, French and United States military authorities in Europe will plan:

(a) quiet precautionary military measures in Europe of a kind which will not create public alarm but will be detectable by Soviet intelligence; these measures to be implemented as soon as they have been agreed;

(b) more elaborate military measures in Europe which would be generally observable, including (1) measures to be implemented after the Soviet Government have turned their functions over to the D.D.R. and (2) measures to be implemented after our traffic has been forcibly obstructed.

This planning will be carried out on a tripartite basis under the general supervision of General Norstad in his capacity as Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces, Europe. The exact arrangements for the planning will be further concerted between the military authorities of the three countries. These military authorities will also plan measures on a purely national basis in support of the measures referred to above.

2. The allied Embassies in Bonn, in co-operation with the allied military authorities, will complete the work of drafting the instructions to the commanders of military convoys, vehicles and trains as to the procedure which is to be followed in the event of D.D.R. personnel replacing Soviet personnel at the check points (a) if the Soviet Government have declared them to be their agents (b) if they have not. In the latter event they will be guided by the principle that the commanders should not submit to any formalities or measures of control at the hands of D.D.R. personnel going beyond what is necessary to enable them to identify the convoys, vehicles or trains as belonging to the allied forces, or going beyond what may be tripartitely agreed to be reasonable to enable the D.D.R. personnel to ensure the orderly progress of traffic on the autobahn or railroad.

3. The Embassies will plan on the assumption that if and when the

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Soviet Government actually turns over the checkpoint to the D.D.R. every effort will be made to continue normal traffic by autobahn and railroad, except that the procedures contemplated in para. 2 will be substituted for the present procedures followed with the Soviet control personnel.

4. There will be drawn up without delay a tripartitely agreed draft of a public statement to be made if and when the Soviet Government announce the imminent turning over of the check-points to the D.D.R. This statement would explain the legal construction which the allied Governments place upon the Soviet announcement and the procedures they will follow.

5. If free surface access of the three Powers to Berlin is forcibly interrupted the three Governments will carry out their plans for this contingency and consider what further military measures should be taken beyond those referred to in para. 1 above. Meanwhile, supplementing military measures referred to in 1(b), an intensification of diplomatic, propaganda and other non-military pressures will have been undertaken. The British and the United States Governments do not at present exclude resort to an increase in military airlift in the period between the obstruction of surface access and the point when it is accepted that political and other related pressures have failed.

6. The British, French and United States delegations to the United Nations will continue to study the basis and timing of an approach to the United Nations and will make recommendations to their governments.

7. The foregoing points are understood to be consistent with and supplementary to the United States Aide-Memoire of December 11, 1958, as modified by the United States memorandum of February 18, 1959.

8. The tripartite Ambassadorial Group in Washington will continue to meet as necessary to consider and co-ordinate the planning and procedures developed by the field groups referred to in paras. 1, 2 and 6 above.